

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a computer network that includes a full duplex bi-directional first port and an initiator that can issue a request for said first port to assume a state,

wherein said first port, when in a first state, is able to bi-directionally communicate with a full duplex bi-directional second port,

wherein said first port, when in a second state, is coupled to itself by having an output thereof coupled to an input thereof,

said method comprising:

inhibiting said initiator from issuing said request,

sending data to said initiator describing a desired state of said first port, and

enabling said initiator to issue said request for said first port to assume said desired state.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising after said inhibiting step, the step of receiving data from said initiator describing an actual state of said first port.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising after said receiving step, the step of determining said desired state based on said actual state.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer network includes a plurality of webs, and each of said plurality of webs includes a respective initiator and a respective full duplex bi-directional port.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to said inhibiting step said computer network has M number of webs, and each of said M number of webs includes a respective initiator and a respective full duplex bi-directional port, and after said enabling step said computer network has N number of webs, where N is not equal to M.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said initiator is one of a plurality of initiators, and wherein said inhibiting step comprises inhibiting said plurality of initiators from issuing said request, and wherein said enabling step comprises enabling said plurality of initiators in a determined sequence.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said desired state is specified by a user.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer network conforms to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard X3T10.1.

9. A controller for configuring a computer network that includes a full duplex bi-directional first port and an initiator that can issue a request for said first port to assume a state,

wherein said first port, when in a first state, is able to bi-directionally communicate with a full duplex bi-directional second port,

wherein said first port, when in a second state, is coupled to itself by having an output thereof coupled to an input thereof,

said controller comprising:

means for inhibiting said initiator from issuing said request,

means for sending data to said initiator describing a desired state of said first port, and

means for enabling said initiator to issue said request for said first port to assume said desired state.

10. The controller of claim 9, further comprising means for receiving data from said initiator describing an actual state of said first port.

11. The controller of claim 10, further comprising means for determining said desired state based on said actual state.

12. The controller of claim 9, wherein said computer network includes a plurality of webs, and each of said plurality of webs includes a respective initiator and a respective full duplex bi-directional port.

13. The controller of claim 9, wherein said computer network has M number of webs, and each of said M number of webs includes a respective initiator and a respective full duplex bi-directional port, and said controller configures said computer network to yield N number of webs, where N is not equal to M.

14. The controller of claim 9, wherein said initiator is one of a plurality of initiators, and wherein said inhibiting means inhibits said plurality of initiators from issuing said request, and wherein said enabling means enables said plurality of initiators in a determined sequence.

15. A storage media including instructions for controlling a processor that, in turn, configures a computer network that includes a full duplex bi-directional first port and an initiator that can issue a request for said first port to assume a state,

wherein said first port, when in a first state, is able to bi-directionally communicate with a full duplex bi-directional second port,

wherein said first port, when in a second state, is coupled to itself by having an output thereof coupled to an input thereof,

said storage media comprising:

means for controlling said processor to inhibit said initiator from issuing said request,

means for controlling said processor to send data to said initiator describing a desired state of said first port, and

means for controlling said processor to enable said initiator to issue said request for said first port to assume said desired state.

16. The storage media of claim 15, further comprising means for controlling said processor to receive data from said initiator describing an actual state of said first port.

17. The storage media of claim 16, further comprising means for controlling said processor to determine said desired state based on said actual state.

18. The storage media of claim 15, wherein said computer network includes a plurality of webs, and each of said plurality of webs includes a respective initiator and a respective full duplex bi-directional port.

19. The storage media of claim 1, wherein said computer network has M number of webs, and each of said M number of webs includes a respective initiator and a

respective full duplex bi-directional port, and said processor configures said computer network to yield N number of webs, where N is not equal to M.

20. The storage media of claim 15, wherein said initiator is one of a plurality of initiators, and wherein said storage media comprises means for controlling said processor to inhibit said plurality of initiators from issuing said request, and means for controlling said processor to enable said plurality of initiators in a determined sequence.